

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 4 and 9.

Attachment: Replacement sheets (2)

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 16 and 19 stand rejected.

Claim 21 stands objected to.

Claims 2-5, 17-18 have been allowed.

Claims 2-3, 16 and 21 have been amended. Claim 24 is newly added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 6-15, 20 and 23 have been withdrawn.

Claims 1, 16 and 22 have been canceled.

Claims 2-21 and 23-24 are pending.

II. Acknowledgement of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 2-5, 17-18 and 21. Claim 21 has been amended to depend solely from allowable claim 17. Additionally, the elements of claim 21, along with the elements of the rejected base claim, have been amended into new claim 24.

III. Objections To The Drawings

Applicant respectfully submits that drawing figures 4 and 9 have been amended to correct the previous deficiencies. Moreover, the specification has also been amended to be in line with the amended drawings and also to properly include any necessary reference numerals.

Additionally, reference numeral 20 is described in the specification as illustrating a steel corner plate. Applicant respectfully submits that the figures appropriately illustrate a steel corner plate 20. Accordingly, Applicant requests that this objection to the drawing be withdrawn.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 16 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,577,353 to Simpson (“Simpson”). The Examiner states that Simpson discloses each and every limitation of Applicant’s claimed invention.

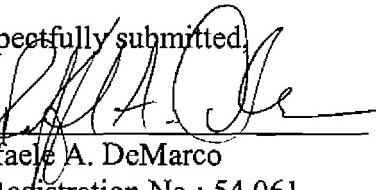
Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 has been canceled and claim 20 has been withdrawn. Moreover, claim 19 has been amended to depend from claim 24 which includes allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner and is also therefore allowable. Accordingly, as this rejection is now moot, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Raffaele A. DeMarco

Registration No.: 54,061

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorney For Applicant